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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 29, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we witnessed thugs, tyrants, and dictators from Russia, Iran, and Cuba speak before the General Assembly at the United Nations; and with straight faces, each claimed to be defenders of peace, of international standards, of human rights, principles that Putin, Rouhani, and Castro have made a living out of ignoring and abusing to the detriment of the people who live under their oppressive rule.

President Obama had an opportunity to set the tone, to call for reforms at the badly mismanaged United Nations, to challenge the status quo and reestablish America's leadership and credibility. Instead, he used it as an opportunity to pay lip service to American ideals and values and to abdicate America's role as a world leader, a void that is now being filled by our adversaries like Russia, Iran, China, and Syria.

The Russians continue their aggressive actions in Ukraine and are now sending military hardware to the murderous Assad regime. Iran has had a record number of hangings since the so-called moderate leader, Rouhani, took office, and thousands of ethnic and religious minorities are imprisoned and sentenced to death.

The President has done everything in his power not to upset the Iranians because he doesn't want to ruin the chance for a nuclear deal, a deal which will cause a nuclear and conventional arms race in the region, and his words yesterday proved to be empty rhetoric when matched to his policies and actions in the past.

Not to be outdone, Raul Castro doubled down on his intransigence, further demonstrating that the Obama administration offered concessions to the regime, which have resulted in even greater oppression by that hated Cuban dictatorship. But per usual with the President, it was the "blame America first" narrative that he was trying to peddle with his misguided policies toward Cuba.

President Obama used this opportunity to undermine the United States Congress, and perhaps foreshadowing an eventual abstention on the U.N. vote on the Cuban embargo, he stated:

I'm confident that our Congress will inevitably lift an embargo that should not be in place anymore.

President Obama failed once again to put the onus on the Castro regime to

release all political prisoners, to hold free and fair elections, and to respect human rights in order for us to lift the embargo. The Cuban embargo language in the law is clear on all the conditions, Mr. Speaker, conditions that have to be met in order for it to be lifted, conditions that the Castro regime has no interest in abiding by.

President Obama should stop ignoring current law and stop loosening regulations on a regime that has done nothing to deserve this praise. The Castro regime is the one responsible for the human rights violations occurring in Cuba and the constant beatings against pro-democracy leaders. The U.S. embargo cannot be held responsible for that.

Does Castro say: "Oh, I had to beat the very peaceful group Ladies in White walking to church because the embargo says I must beat their heads in?" Does Castro say: "Oh, I cannot have any political party operating in Cuba other than the Communist Party because the embargo has me, obligates me, to only have this political party operating?" Does he say: "I cannot respect human rights in Cuba because that nasty U.S. embargo forces me to violate human rights?" Of course not. That is lunacy. That is a responsibility that only Castro can claim. The Castro regime instead has done nothing—nada—to unclench its iron fist.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's remarks yesterday at the U.N. made him part of the problem with what is wrong at that broken institution; and, once again, it highlighted that his misplaced priorities and misguided foreign policies have not kept our country any safer.

That is why it is up to us in Congress to be proactive and to push for reforms at the United Nations. That is why this week I am reintroducing my U.N. Transparency Accountability and Reform Act. My bill would fundamentally change the way that we fund this failed

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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